

FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM Panorama

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AN INTERVIEW WITH VICTOR MARCHETTI

MAURY POVICH: The ingenious title of our novel -- written by our next guest, called "The Rope Dancer" -- I'm just sitting here wondering. Our guest is an astrologer -- did a chart on an astrologer (sic) and found out maybe they were better suited to another job like CIA agents, or rope dancing or something else -- maybe they shouldn't be an astrologer at all.

Would you please welcome to Panorama, I think the first -- no, the second -- second CIA agent ever to appear on this program. Allen Dulles was the first one. Wasn't he a CIA man?

JOHN WILLIS: He certainly was.

POVICH: He was the biggest CIA man there was wasn't he?

VICTOR MARCHETTI: At the time he was the Director.

POVICH: Mr. Dulles appeared on this show one time.

Do you know he wrote books...

MARCHETTI: Yes.

POVICH: ...other than straight books? He wrote novels, too, you know that?

MARCHETTI: No, I didn't know that.

POVICH: I think he did. I think he wrote a mystery and I think he had it on here one time. Believe it or not, the book was written about six or seven years ago before he left the Agency.

Mr. Victor Marchetti, former CIA agent has written this novel called "The Rope Dancer" and it has been -- it has been called a rather thinly veiled novel of the agonies of the Central Intelligence Agency today and exactly the policy struggles that go on in an agency like that. Would you say that's about true?

MARCHETTI: Yes, to a certain extent. It is, after all, fiction. And the characters and the situations, of course, are based on my personal experiences in the CIA. However, the line between fiction and fact slides from